

We remember and commit to put God first in every part of our lives at the first of the year, 2024!

First commandment

Matthew 22:37–38 (ESV), “And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and **first commandment**.”

Returning to our First Love

Rev. 2:4, “Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love”

We love God because he first loved us

1 John 4:19, “We love Him because He first loved us”

Seek First the Kingdom

Matthew 6:33 (ESV), “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Gospel – Centered

1 Corinthians 15:3–5 (ESV), “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve....”

To the Jew First

Romans 1:16 (ESV), “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

First of all Pray!

1 Timothy 2:1–2 (ESV), “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”

Honor those that have gone before us (natural and spiritual fathers and mothers)

Ephesians 6:2–3 (ESV), “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

Honor the Lord with First fruits of all our income (Tithe)

Proverbs 3:9–10 (ESV), “Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine”

Humility and Sacrifice It is important to remember that the fire of God’s presence only falls on sacrifice. Let’s humble ourselves again and offer ourselves as Living Sacrifices at the first of the year.

James 4:6, “But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: *“God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”*

Isaiah 57:15, “For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name *is* Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy *place*, With him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Romans 12:1 (ESV), “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Consecration Prayer –

“Lord, we surrender every part of our lives to you. We come before you open and exposed. You have the right to be Lord of every part of our lives .. we surrender our time, our resources, and our relationships to you. We offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice. We give you, our hearts! Come and lead us, fill us and use us your servants. We are yours and you are ours ... we love you Lord!

(Romans 11:33-Rom 12:1-3)